


# SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



<b>Approved by:</b>	 Headmaster  Chair of Governors	<b>Date:</b> 01/09/2023
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	August 2023	
<b>Next review by:</b>	August 2024	

*Note: This policy applies to all sections of the School including EYFS*

This policy:

- Is non-contractual in nature;
- Applies to all members of staff except those who have not completed their probationary period;
- Can be adjusted by the School to suit specific circumstances;
- Can be varied unilaterally by the School.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Collective Worship forms an important part of the weekly routine at Saint Nicholas. Indeed, the Department for Education (DfE) specifies that all schools must hold a daily act of collective worship, and while this doesn't have to take the form of an assembly, it very often does. All assemblies at Saint Nicholas, either for the whole School or for different sections of the school, are therefore regarded as meaningful and important events. Assemblies encourage community spirit, offer an opportunity to transmit shared values, promote social cohesion throughout the School. Whilst the School has a broadly Christian ethos, the extent to which assemblies draw from the Christian tradition depends on the nature of the assembly.

## **2. DEFINITION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole School, or groups within the School meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **3. THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The two fundamental principles underlying the provision of acts of Collective Worship at Saint Nicholas are as follows:

### **3.1 Inclusive**

Collective Worship and assemblies should recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and religions which exist in our multicultural society. Assemblies will focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the children, promoting an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe. Where possible, they will include active participation by pupils, especially in class assemblies.

### **3.2 Educational**

Collective Worship and assemblies should reflect the aims of the School and foster a sense of shared values. They should be valuable learning experiences which enhance, complement and extend curriculum work. Collective Worship in the form of assemblies provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal and sporting achievements of the pupils, as well as an opportunity to learn how to behave in a large social gathering.

### **3.3 Spiritual, moral, social and cultural**

Collective Worship should offer a brief respite from daily life, when pupils will have the opportunity to reflect in an atmosphere of quiet and peace.

#### 4. Assemblies

In addition to form time, the follow assemblies take place:

	<b>Lower School</b>	<b>Middle School</b>	<b>Upper School</b>
MONDAY	Assembly		
TUESDAY			
WEDNESDAY	House Assembly Form Time	Section Assembly House Assembly Form Time	Section Assembly House Assembly Form Time
THURSDAY			
FRIDAY	Headmaster's Assembly (AM)	Headmaster's Assembly (PM)	

##### **Monday**

The assembly period on Monday is used to celebrate achievement in the Lower School. The Headmaster or Assistant Head Pastoral for the Lower School will celebrate positive behaviour and high quality work through awarding merit badges and other certificates. This assembly will also be used to reinforce the values of the school and promote its ethos.

##### **Wednesday**

The assembly period on Wednesday serves a number of purposes. It is used for class assemblies, House meetings, section assemblies. This assembly period is invaluable as it offers the Heads of Sections the opportunity to meet with the pupils they are responsible for and address issues that are age specific.

##### **Friday**

The Headmaster's assembly is a more formal occasion and is led by either the Headmaster who will usually use this time to further develop the schools values and ethos. The Headmaster awards certificates and other special prizes to celebrate achievement. Friday assembly also provides pupils with the opportunity to perform musical solos or short drama pieces in a designated slot. Notices concerning the activities and events of the coming week are announced, as are the names of any pupils appointed to positions of responsibility, such as Prefects, Form Captains, Games Captains or Librarians.

#### **5. PLANNING ACTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. It will also take into account major religious festivals and days of significance so that pupils have a heightened awareness of these special days on the calendar.

#### **6. THE ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively

in acts of Collective Worship. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

## **7. WITHDRAWAL**

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headmaster. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the School staff.